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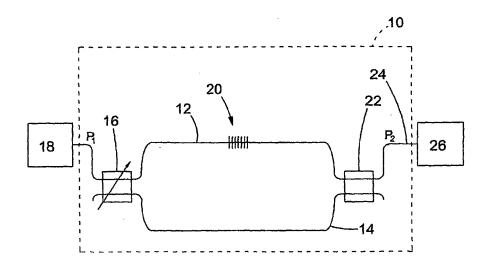
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR EQUALISING A SPECTRUM OF A BROADBAND LIGHT SOURCE



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an apparatus suitable for equalising a spectrum of a broadband light source comprising a first optical path and a second optical path; an optical splatter being connectable to an optical power source, for directing at least part of optical power from the optical power source to each of the first and second optical paths; an optical filter provided in the first optical path for filtering the optical signal propagating there through; and an optical combiner for combining at least part of the optical signals from each of the first and second paths into an output channel. Preferably, the optical splitter is tuneable to direct at least part of the optical power from the optical source to each of the first and second paths, in varying proportions.

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rui/ IB2004/050947 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G02F1/225 H04B10/17 H04B10/18 H01S3/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED $\begin{array}{ll} \mbox{Minimum documentation searched} & \mbox{(classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ \mbox{IPC 7} & \mbox{H01S} & \mbox{G02F} & \mbox{H04B} \\ \end{array}$ Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category ' 1,2,8 US 2002/191274 A1 (ONO HIROAKI ET AL) X 19 December 2002 (2002-12-19) paragraphs '0069!-'0074!; figures 6-10 1,2,6-85,9,10 TACHIBANA M ET AL: "ERBIUM-DOPED FIBER AMPLIFIER WITH FLATTENED GAIN SPECTRUM" 1,2,6-8 IEEE PHOTONICS TECHNOLOGY LETTERS, IEEE INC. NEW YORK, US, vol. 3, no. 2, 1 February 1991 (1991-02-01), pages 118-120, XP000203005 ISSN: 1041-1135 cited in the application the whole document Α Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document but published on or after the international fling date 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 12/10/2004 14 September 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5618 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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